

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 AF-10 /100 W
-----040133Z 055489 /70

R 031455Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6988
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS TUNIS 3910

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, IS, JO, PLO, TS

SUBJECT: WEST BANK MAYOR'S VISIT TO TUNIS

1. MAYOR OF WEST BANK TOWN OF BEIR ZEIT VISITED TUNISIA
IN LATE MAY AND ESTABLISHED SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH
TUNIS. WHILE IN TUNISIA MAYOR AMINE CHAHADEH AND TWO
ASSISTANTS (IBRAHIM AND ISSAM YOUSSEF HANNE) CALLED ON
PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, MME. WASSILA BOURGUIBA, FOREIGN
MINISTER HABIB CHATTY AND ON INTERIOR MINISTER TAHAR
BELKHODJA. DURING ALL THESE CALLS HE WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY HAKEM BELAOUI, PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN TUNIS. AFTER
HIS CALL ON BOURGUIBA, CHAHADEH TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE
HAD NOTED A "GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF OUR SITUATION IN
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THE WEST BANK" ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT. IN ANOTHER
PRESS STATEMENT HE DESCRIBED HIS VISIT AS PART OF EFFORTS
TO HELP "THE PALESTINIAN REMAIN IN HIS LAND." IN ADDITION
TO OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN TUNIS, THE DELEGATION WAS SENT
ON A TOUR OF TUNISIA'S PRINCIPAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
IN HAMMAMET, SOUSSE, KAIROUAN AND SFAX.

2. VICE PRESIDENT SAID BEN CHAABANE OF THE TUNIS MUNICIPALITY TOLD US THAT AS A RESULT OF THE BEIR ZEIT VISIT, MME. BOURGUIBA HAS PROMISED TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MOSQUE IN TUNIS (REPORTEDLY ON A VACANT LOT ADJACENT TO USAID OFFICES AND EMBASSY MARINE HOUSE) IN THE STYLE OF EL AQSA MOSQUE IN MERUSALEM. HE SAID THAT THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET DISCUSSED ANY CONTRIBUTION IT MIGHT MAKE TO ITS NEW SISTER CITY IN THE WEST BANK.

3. GOT HAS GIVEN MODERATE ATTENTION TO BEIR ZEIT VISIT IN PRESS AND ON RADIO AND TELEVISION. IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN CAUSE IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE SOME CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN BEIR ZEIT FOR WHICH THE MAYOR MIGHO HAVE SOLICITED ASSISTANCE.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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